

third party examiner must sign the report and confirm the validity of its contents.

(b) If you use an underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV) as the predominate means to examine the vessel's underwater hull plating, you must provide the OCMi with a report in a format that is acceptable to the OCMi, per § 176.650(b) of this part.

(c) The OCMi will evaluate the hull examination report and grant a credit hull exam if satisfied with the condition of the vessel. If approved and you exclusively use divers to examine the hull plating, you will receive a credit hull exam of up to 36 months. (Underwater examinations are required twice every 5 years.) If approved and you use an underwater ROV as the predominate means to examine the hull plating, you will receive a credit hull exam of up to 60 months (5 years).

[USCG-2000-6858, 67 FR 21086, Apr. 29, 2002]

§ 176.660 Continued participation in the Alternative Hull Examination (AHE) Program.

(a) To continue to participate in the AHE Program, you must conduct an annual hull condition assessment. At a minimum, the hull condition assessment must include an internal examination and random hull gaugings taken internally. If the annual hull condition assessment reveals significant damage or corrosion, where temporary repairs have been made, or where other critical areas of concern have been identified, the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) may require an expanded examination to include an underwater hull examination using divers. If an underwater examination is required, the examination must focus on areas at higher risk of damage or corrosion and must include a representative sampling of hull gaugings.

(b) If an underwater survey is required for the annual hull condition assessment, the OCMi may require the presence of a third party examiner and a written hull examination report must be submitted to the OCMi. This report must include thickness gauging results, a copy of the audio and video recordings and any other information that will help the OCMi evaluate your

vessel for continued participation in the AHE program. The third party examiner must sign the report and confirm the validity of its contents.

(c) You must submit your preventive maintenance reports or checklists on an annual basis to the OCMi. These reports or checklists must conform to the plans you submitted in your application under § 176.630 of this part, which the OCMi approved.

(d) Prior to each scheduled annual hull condition assessment—

(1) The owner may submit to the OCMi a request for a waiver of this requirement no fewer than 30 days before the scheduled assessment; and

(2) The OCMi may reduce the scope or extend the interval of the assessment if the operational, casualty, and deficiency history of the vessel, along with a recommendation of the vessel's master, indicates that it is warranted.

[USCG-2000-6858, 67 FR 21086, Apr. 29, 2002]

§ 176.665 Notice and plans required.

(a) The owner or managing operator shall notify the cognizant OCMi as far in advance as possible whenever a vessel is to be hauled out or placed in a drydock or slipway in compliance with § 176.605 or to undergo repairs or alterations affecting the safety of the vessel, together with the nature of any repairs or alterations contemplated. Hull repairs or alternations that affect the safety of the vessel include but are not limited to the replacement, repair, or refastening of planking, plating, or structural members including the repair of cracks.

(b) Whenever a vessel is hauled out or placed in a drydock or slipway in excess of the requirements of this subpart for the purpose of maintenance, including, but not limited to, changing a propeller, painting, or cleaning the hull, no report need be made to the cognizant OCMi.

(c) The owner or managing operator of each vessel that holds a Load Line Certificate shall make plans showing the vessel's scantlings available to the Coast Guard marine inspector whenever the vessel undergoes a drydock examination, internal structural examination, or an underwater survey or

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whenever repairs or alterations affecting the safety or seaworthiness of the vessel are made to the vessel's hull.

[CGD 85-080, 61 FR 953, Jan. 10, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 51356, Sept. 30, 1997. Redesignated and amended by USCG-2000-6858, 67 FR 21084, 21087, Apr. 29, 2002]

§ 176.670 Tailshaft examinations.

(a) The marine inspector may require any part or all of the propeller shafting to be drawn for examination of the shafting and stern bearing of a vessel whenever the condition of the shafting and bearings are in question.

(b) The marine inspector may conduct a visual examination and may require nondestructive testing of the propeller shafting whenever the condition of shafting is in question.

[CGD 85-080, 61 FR 953, Jan. 10, 1996. Redesignated by USCG-2000-6858, 67 FR 21084, Apr. 29, 2002]

§ 176.675 Extension of examination intervals.

The intervals between drydock examinations and internal structural examinations specified in § 176.605 of this part may be extended by the cognizant OCMI or Commandant.

[CGD 85-080, 61 FR 953, Jan. 10, 1996. Redesignated and amended by USCG-2000-6858, 67 FR 21084, 21087, Apr. 29, 2002]

Subpart G—Repairs and Alterations

§ 176.700 Permission for repairs and alterations.

(a) Repairs or alterations to the hull, machinery, or equipment that affect the safety of the vessel must not be made without the approval of the cognizant OCMI, except during an emergency. When repairs are made during an emergency, the owner, managing operator, or master shall notify the OCMI as soon as practicable after such repairs or alterations are made. Repairs or alterations that affect the safety of the vessel include, but are not limited to: replacement, repair, or re-fastening of deck or hull planking, plating, and structural members; repair of plate or frame cracks; damage repair or replacement, other than replacement in kind, of electrical wiring,

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fuel lines, tanks, boilers and other pressure vessels, and steering, propulsion and power supply systems; alterations affecting stability; and repair or alteration of lifesaving, fire detecting, or fire extinguishing equipment.

(b) The owner or managing operator shall submit drawings, sketches, or written specifications describing the details of any proposed alterations to the cognizant OCMI. Proposed alterations must be approved by the OCMI before work is started.

(c) Drawings are not required to be submitted for repairs or replacements in kind.

(d) The OCMI may require an inspection and testing whenever a repair or alteration is undertaken.

§ 176.702 Installation tests and inspections.

Whenever a launching appliance, survival craft, rescue boat, fixed gas fire extinguishing system, machinery, fuel tank, or pressure vessel is installed aboard a vessel after completion of the initial inspection for certification of the vessel, as replacement equipment or as a new installation, the owner or managing operator shall conduct the tests and make the vessel ready for the inspections required by § 176.402(d) to the satisfaction of the cognizant OCMI.

§ 176.704 Breaking of safety valve seals.

The owner, managing operator, or master shall notify the cognizant OCMI as soon as practicable after the seal on a boiler safety valve on a vessel is broken.

§ 176.710 Inspection and testing prior to hot work.

(a) An inspection for flammable or combustible gases must be conducted by a certified marine chemist or other person authorized by the cognizant OCMI in accordance with the provisions of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 306, "Control of Gas Hazards on Vessels," before alterations, repairs, or other operations involving riveting, welding, burning, or other fire producing actions may be made aboard a vessel:

(1) Within or on the boundaries of fuel tanks; or